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IMITATION

long for imitators when their ideas are opposed to habits that are so strengthened. This was Galileo's experience; and it may be remarked that the commanding authority of Newton and Darwin has repressed, as well as stimulated, original research.

The imitative impulse influences the external actions of the body. May it not also affect its physical development? There is apparently no reason why we should limit the powers of mimicry to *conscious* behaviour: we may quite sub-consciously acquire an alien accent. Many plants and animals will change their colour. Some will indeed change their *form*—in a changed environment: many appear to have mimicked the colours of other animals. the colour and even the shape of the foliage amidst which they live. We search for a useful purpose in these transformations and assume that they are protective. Some of them are: others are not. So also some flowers that may be attractive to insects are fertilized by insects: others, not less attractive in appearance, fertilize themselves. It is the fashion to hold that these "protective" devices are the relics of a multitude of casual variations which owe their survival to their incidental possession of some utility. On this hypothesis variations that have become innate owe nothing to the imitative impulse. It is, however, difficult to believe that

random changes. however closely weeded by the struggle for life. could have led to the mimicry of leaves and twigs by certain insects, to the imitation of snow by some Arctic animals during the winter months. It may be urged that no instances are forthcoming of the development of a trait from its origin in individual mimicry to its